

DEVELOPMENT

A meeting took place of the Development Working Group on the 12th February, 1971 at the Generalate of the Sisters of Charity, at 4 p.m.

The following were present:

Fr. E. Biggane, sma	Fr. R. Lamellin, fec
Fr. J. Blanes, msc	Fr. A. McCormack, mhm
Bro. H. Boyle, cfx	Fr. P.F. Moody, pa
Fr. J. Brossard, omi	Mo. X. Rowntree, osu
Sr. J. Clijsters, scmm-t	Sr. G. Samson, sa
Sr. A. Cottaar, scmm-t	Fr. J.P. Schotte, cicm
Fr. V. Fecher, svd	Sr. M.C. Schweitzer, snd-n
Bro. V. Gottwald, fsc	

From Sedos Secretariat: Fr. B. Tonna and Miss Capes.

Fr. V. Fecher was in the Chair.

1. The first item on the Agenda was:

Brief Reports on what was done about items mentioned in the last WGD meeting.

a. Fr. McCormack's Pamphlet: To be brought to the attention of the new Executive Committee at their March meeting. The Agenda of the outgoing committee in January had not permitted the inclusion of this item.

b. Round Table and Justice & Peace

1. Fr. Schotte reported that the minutes and report of the Round Table meeting last December, had been received the previous week and he suggested that the WGD Justice & Peace task force meet to discuss and approve the minutes before the next WGD meeting.

2. Preparation of the Synod

One of the points on the agenda of the Synod would be "Justice in the World", and it was reported that Justice and Peace had presented a document to the Agenda Committee of the Synod who had examined it and returned it to Justice & Peace, for

re-writing. The USG would have a delegation of 10 Generals at the Synod and would receive this paper to study in advance. In the meantime, a Commission of Generals had been set up within the USG (they included Sedos members) who were going to appoint a group of experts (Sedos members would be among them) to work on this paper and on the statement to be presented to the Generals at a meeting in May or later, for their consensus. When it was ready this paper would be presented to all the bishops for their comments.

It was suggested that every effort should be made to involve the women before the final draft of the document was drawn up. The problem was that the USG had as yet no structures which permitted the setting up of an official working relationship with the men. It was felt most desirable that the view of those women involved in development work - especially those in the missions committed to child care and medical work - should be sought now, to obviate possible important omissions when the document came out.

It was established that efforts were being made in this direction, and a progress report on this would be given at the next WGD meeting.

- c. Battelle Project: It was reported that Fr. Stanley was in Switzerland, where it was believed he was contacting the Battelle Project Authorities, and he'd no doubt be reporting at the next meeting.

2. Brother V. Gottwald: - On contacts with FAO Representatives. Follow-up?

- A. AFRICA: Brother Vincent informed the group that his first contacts with FAO representatives in the field began in his journeys through French-speaking and English-speaking E. Africa in 1969. The appointments were set up for him as he went along, on a more or less private basis.

The aims of these contacts were:

1. to explore the possibilities and scope of educational activities in these countries - starting with agriculture
2. to explore the possibilities of cooperation in Africa between FAO and the FFHC (Freedom From Hunger Campaign) on the one hand and the Church Groups on the other.

However, there was very little enthusiasm from people concerned to come along with him to meet the FAO representatives in the various countries, with the exception of Madagascar, the Congo and Upper Volta. Therefore, with regard to Africa, the contacts left behind were regrettably rather limited.

- B. LATIN AMERICA: Brother Gottwald explained that in this case, his appointments were set up for him in advance in the various capitals, and in several cases programmes of discussion had also been prepared. Apart from one capital here, he had found the Church authorities interested, and one of the spontaneous reactions of these meetings was the invitation given to the FAO representative to attend the next meeting of the various Church groups to discuss some concrete projects. Brother Vincent had not heard since if this had been done or not.

COMMENTS by Brother Vincent

1. He had noted a marked ignorance on the part of the Church groups regarding international bodies, and on the part of the International bodies regarding the kind of work being done by the Church. Fear based on ignorance was thought to be largely responsible for keeping the Church and International bodies apart. Therefore, an exchange of information would be enriching for both sides, and was absolutely necessary in order to get them working together.
2. There was a desire on both the part of the Church and especially that of the FAO, to cooperate. The problem was to find HOW and WHERE?

SUGGESTIONS by Brother Vincent

1. Development of relations with FAO at Rome, but with concrete studies on all programmes.
2. Developing at Rome, relations and cooperation among Generalates of Congregations working in the respective countries in order to:
 - a. Evaluate the activity that they have there.
 - b. Re-assess and most probably re-orientate their programmes of work.
 - c. Arrive at a possible coordinated policy of action in cooperation with FAO and other national or international bodies, beginning by cooperating amongst themselves (the religious groups) in each particular country.
 - d. Ensure that such cooperation and coordination descend down to the provincial administration and the grass-root workers from the Sedos Generalates.

HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE

1. The WGD-FAO Task Force cooperating together with Agrimissio and FAO could:
 - a. make serious studies, to begin with, of the urgent problems in selected areas
 - b. send out information on Sedos; on FAO and other work groups and their activities; conclusions of Round Tables etc.
 - c. provoke jointly FAO-Agrimissio-Sedos reactions of better cooperation and planning in the field.

Finally, Brother Gottwald said, from his travels in Africa and Latin America (and he was about to take off for Asia where he would also be contacting FAO representatives) he was convinced that there were tremendous possibilities of much better results than had been achieved so far, provided there was some coordinated planning and coordinated action.

There was then open discussion, and the following agreements were arrived at by the group:

1. Regarding a coordinated policy among the Generalates and getting vital information down to the grass roots:
 - a. that this WGD would take as one of its projects for this year the making of information - regarding FFHC, FAO and other national and international bodies - available to the Generalates of Sedos for forwarding on to their missionaries in the field.
 - b. that a sub-committee of 3 volunteers: Fr. F. Moody, pa, Fr. J. Brossard, omi, and Bro. V. Gottwald, fsc, would be asked to draft on about one page what should be communicated, as a first stage, to the member institutes of Sedos regarding the FFHC (Freedom From Hunger Campaign). (We shall hear more from Fr. Brossard later in the meeting, about the FFHC.)
 - c. that this one page would be incorporated as a supplement in the second issue of JOINT VENTURE coming out at the end of March.
 - d. to ensure as far as possible that this information reached the missionaries in the field, it was decided to ask the Generalates for a list of addresses of the people they wanted to receive these "communications" starting with the second issue of Joint Venture, and Fr. Tonna agreed to forward Joint Venture direct from Sedos to the addresses submitted by the Generalates.

3. PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE COMING YEAR - Ideas solicited from the Group

It was suggested that this Working Group would serve a function in Sedos by summarizing in one or one and a half pages, selected articles in the field of development; theology of development, human promotion, sociology etc. They would be selected in the sense of the importance for the Generals and their staffs to know about them.

The articles which had been circulated to the WGD members by the Chairman: - "Noose Around the City" and "The Urbanization Crisis of Rural Man" were related in the sense that they made one aware of the magnitude of the problem of an important PASTORAL consideration. The fact that by the end of the century half of the world was going to be living in cities and in the Third World about half of that was going to be living in slums - called for consideration and action. There would be no point then of the Church concentrating 95% of her forces in rural areas.

To Cover the Wide Field, we would first have to decide:

- a. What were the important things that we were going to summarize?
- b. Then, we should have to establish who of the WGD gp, was going to summarize which articles, and when they would be ready in order to keep a regular flow.
- c. Fr. Tonna agreed that such articles could be made a regular feature of the Sedos bulletin, but provided the Generalates were sensitized to look for this in the bulletin.
- d. Upon invitation, Fr. McCormack agreed to head up a three-man team comprising of himself, Fr. L. Bano (Sedos) and Sr. Agnetta (Sedos) whose job it would be to list titles of important articles or documents, forming a bibliography of articles on a running basis, so that this WG would have something to summarize. Once this sub-group came up with a list it could be presented to Fr. Fecher at a small meeting, and how to ensure a regular flow would be determined. Then, at the WGD meeting it could be decided who would prepare the summary on a Dutch article, English article as well as French and German articles, and for which dead-lines.

An important comment made was that it was the aim of the WGD to furnish ideas to the Generalates which could influence their policy making, and to furnish ~~them~~ in a digested form - so ~~they~~ could be read easily and quickly.

4. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN - by Fr. Brossard

1. Fr. Brossard explained that the FFHC is a triangle between FAO the Voluntary Agencies (where the Churches come in) and the local Government. It is more flexible than the FAO.
 2. FFHC started in 1960, backed by Pope John and Pope Paul VI. Most of the work is done by the Voluntary Agencies. It was an effort on the part of FAO to get the voluntary agencies to work together with them.
 3. Integration of the missionary effort in development into the national development plan would mean:
the possibility of technical as well as financial assistance
 4. A complete list of all the addresses of the FFHC committees throughout the world - in the richer as well as the poorer countries - would be circulated to all member Generalates by the Sedos Secretariat as a follow-up to the "one page of information on FFHC" circulated in the second issue to JOINT VENTURE. It would be up to the Generalates to select and forward the addresses relevant to the different areas, directly. Applications from the grass roots for further information, to be addressed to their Generalate in Rome or to Fr. Brossard of Agrimissio.
 5. It was pointed out that the FAO is trying to develop a partnership between the richer and the poorer countries - not only to encourage help with money, but also an exchange of ideas.
 6. It was stated that the FAO Representative in the field can be contacted through the Ministry of Agriculture in the capital of the country, or through the United Nations Representative there.
5. a) Next meeting of the WGD would take place on Friday March 12th at 4 p.m. at SEDOS REPEAT SEDOS.
- b) AGENDA for Friday, 12 March
- I. Brief reports on old business
 - II. Concrete steps towards summarizing articles
 - III. Development business and trip to Geneva:
 - (a) Credit Union follow-up
 - (b) Our man in Geneva

Audrey M. CAPES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the new executive committee took place at the Secretariate at 9 a.m. The president, Father Van Asten presided. All members of the executive were present.

The committee began its work by re-examining the Constitution of SEDOS as the instrument that should guide its role and its activities as the executive arm of the Assembly of Generals. It noted especially the aims and objectives of SEDOS, which are in the area of documentation and studies in the interest of the mission apostolate.

An evaluation of the past experience of SEDOS was attempted, as also the effective role played by the previous executive committees; the present executive concluded that it should affirm the intentions of the founders of SEDOS to serve the mission apostolate above all by promoting documentation and studies, and by serving as a means of closer collaboration and mutual assistance among the mission sending institutes.

The activities of SEDOS were then reviewed. It was stressed that while all activities are useful, there should be a continuing review and evaluation of all activities either in progress or under consideration; this should be a major concern of the executive committee. Not all useful activities need be sponsored by SEDOS; we should seek only the best and most useful activities; care should be taken to avoid undertaking too much and not having the means to do well what we undertake. Any major activity or formal meeting should be referred to the executive committee for consideration before being given to the secretariate for execution; informal meetings or discussions can be arranged directly through the intermediary of the secretariate.

It was thought that it is not the role of the executive committee to initiate activities or programs; these are best suggested by the needs experienced by a congregation or a group of congregations, who will express the need to the executive committee for evaluation and for planning the means of responding to the need. Projects suggested to the secretariate by outside agencies will be referred to the executive committee for study.

It is important that the executive committee, through its president and vice president, keep in constant touch with the secretariate to assist the executive secretary in his direction of the staff.

The thought was expressed that a valuable contribution of SEDOS would be to study the means by which our congregations can enter into closer contact for collaboration in the mission fields, and by which the congregations in the mission fields can render greater service to the local churches. This could be the subject of a future general assembly; the documentation service of the secretariate might be able to provide data or bibliography on the two questions.

It was noted that the previous executive committee had recommended that a committee study the present statutes of SEDOS to ascertain whether some revisions should be suggested to the assembly.

In considering the important services that SEDOS has rendered to the member institutes, the possibility it has given for collaboration among these institutes seemed one of the most valuable; the possibility for collaboration among the men's and women's institutes seemed equally important. SEDOS has also become recognized by outside agencies as a valuable contact with the Catholic mission groups. Religious congregations that are not ex professo missionary congregations, but which are mission sending congregations to varying degrees, have been greatly benefited by their close association with the missionary congregations.

The executive committee considered the results of the recent questionnaire on priorities and services of SEDOS, distributed on January 28th. This should be a guide in the future programs of our organization. In considering the services rated as most important in the answers to the questionnaire, the executive committee reflected upon the means of making the Bulletin, the Meetings by Country and Topic, the Working Groups, even more effective services for our congregations. The lower ranking accorded to the Assembly in the questionnaire indicates the need to make this major activity of SEDOS more and more valuable for our membership. It was remarked that viva voce testimony in informal conversations points to a desire to have the assemblies less devoted to business and procedural matters and more devoted to discussions on vital mission concerns.

The committee unanimously rallied to a suggestion to plan and convoke a series of regional meetings of members of SEDOS institutes, in which the SEDOS president and vice-president will meet with a few members of each of the congregations in the region, in order to obtain the opinions of the members concerning the directions SEDOS should be taking, and concerning the improvements in present services, as well as seeking means to realize the priorities emerging from the questionnaire.

The meeting was closed by prayer at 11:50 a.m.

DEVELOPMENT

SPOTLIGHTS ON DARK CORNERS, N. 3

Ref: CERES (FAO Review) Vol.3 No.6, Nov. Dec. 1970 pp.28-30

Latin America: the landlords don't worry when the peasants leave.

In all countries of Latin America, there is a steady growth of urban population as a result of outflow from the rural areas.

All major cities of Latin America have experienced the surge of urbanization in recent decades. This rapid urbanization is largely due to a transfer of poverty from rural areas to the large central cities, and has resulted in an overcrowding of public services and an acute housing shortage: numbers of shantytowns and other types of slums have sprouted almost everywhere in Latin America.

The 1940 census shows that population groups located in urban areas were a minority in Latin America. In 1950 this proportion had already grown to 39%, and by 1960 to 46%. The population is now believed to be mostly urban.

The population draw of cities has become a social problem insufficient to absorb these great levies of labor having little or no qualification for economic activities. They are pariahs performing occupations of extremely low productivity, with remuneration below the minimum subsistence level.

Some consequences of the present situation: attempts made to solve the low educational level in the rural zones, or to improve technical conditions of work in the country, are frustrated by one of the constant factors in the rural area: the mobility of the worker. The group serviced does not remain long enough under the influence of educational bodies. (Editor's note: the same could be said of pastoral care.)

Moreover, this majority labor force of unskilled farmers having no professional qualifications, will cause the failure of many attempts to improve social and economic conditions. The alienated population is outside the development process itself.

What is behind the migrational phenomenon in Latin America? The industrial process and the improvement of living conditions in the cities are factors; nevertheless, the inhuman status of rural workers under traditional land tenure systems helped unleash the mass exodus.

These traditional land tenure systems contributed significantly both to rural disquiet and to the economic backwardness of Latin America. These systems prevent introducing modern agricultural technology, prevent a fairer reapportionment of revenues, and place arbitrary political power in the hands of those who control most of the land.

There were two types of system: the plantation type was based on the institution of slavery: the centralization of decisions and the supervision of a great number of unskilled laborers. After the abolition of slavery, the land rotation system came into preference: each worker is responsible for a piece of land, and shifts to another area when soil productivity drops. He is thus as mobile as his farm, and as his dwelling. This contributed to an absence of ties on the horizontal level: rarely were there any movements towards collective bargaining.

The present agrarian structure can utilize labor or let it go, or even destroy it. In this sense it is an anti-human structure which does not consider the workers themselves. Their leaving is looked upon as the transfer to other areas of a problem.

NEW DOCUMENTS

EMERGENCY RELIEF

A guide has been issued by the League of Red Cross Societies to help sending quick relief to areas afflicted by sudden calamities. Title:

"RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF HANDBOOK 1970"

The handbook is available at SEDOS for consultation.

The CENTRAL AGENCY FOR JOINT FINANCING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES has left at SEDOS Secretariat copy of their SUMMARY OF PROJECTS, realized in the period 1965-70, with the aid of an investment contribution of the Dutch Government. Available for consultation at SEDOS.

DIARY

Saturday, March 6, 1971

The first of a series of "neighbourhood" meetings was held at the FSC Generalate. Present: the Superiors General of the PA, SCMM-M, OMI, ICM, CMI and delegate from FSC and SFB.

Tuesday, March 9, 1971

A delegation from the CENTRAL AGENCY FOR JOINT FINANCING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES of the Netherlands called at SEDOS to discuss current missionary trends. Its members: Dr. J. Cals (a former Premier), Mr. J. van Gennip, Mgr. Schoenmakers, Mgr. Damen.

Friday, March 12, 1971

Meeting of the Development Working Group.